

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1899.

Mr. H. Thornberry,

Versailles, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Your inquiries of the 24th instant are at hand and in reply I would say:

I do not know of any instance in which our silver dollars have been refused abroad. I do not believe that they pass at their bullion value anywhere, because I do not think anyone would accept that price for them. It is known everywhere that they pass at par with gold in this country, and while they may be discounted somewhat abroad, they would certainly be purchased at a price which would enable them to be shipped here with a profit. It is doubtless true that they are not wanted abroad and if accepted or purchased outside our borders at all, it is with a view of immediately returning them to this country. Our gold coins are readily accepted abroad because they can be melted down and recoinced into the money of other countries. No action which our Government can take in the future threatens their value. On the other hand, it is known everywhere that there is an active demand in this country that our Mints be opened to the unrestricted coinage of silver dollars, and it is everywhere known that if this is done these dollars will fall to their bullion value.

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For this reason and because they are coins which cannot enter into the current use abroad or be reminted, they would not be accepted except at such a discount as precludes their going there.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George E. Roberts", written in a cursive style.

Director of the Mint.